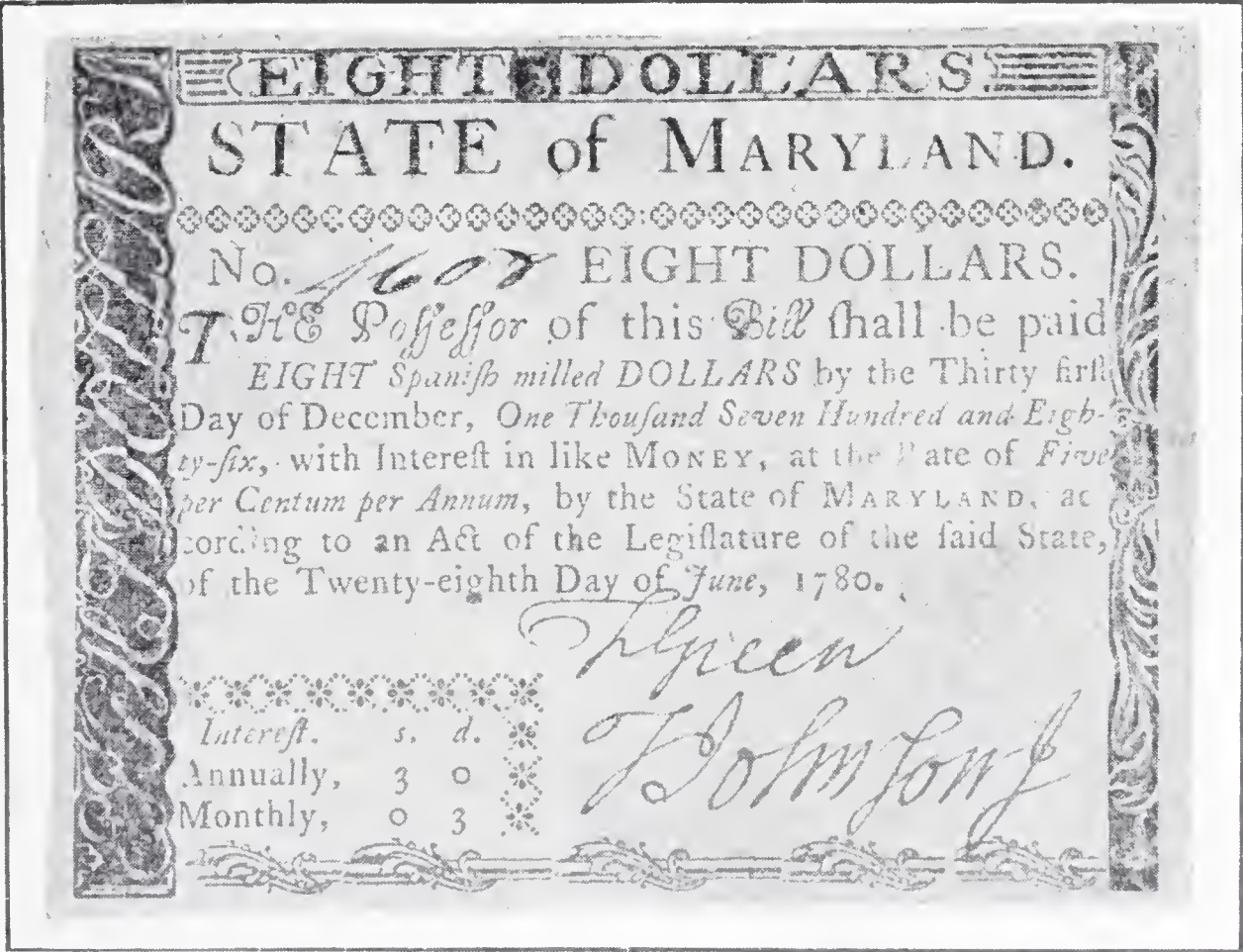


THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL



Maryland Note 1780
Guaranteed by the United States

SCOTT STAMP & COIN CO., Inc.

COIN DEPARTMENT

1 West 47th Street

New York 19, N. Y.

In the early days of the Coin and Stamp business, Scott's always had a coin department. During the late 80's and early 90's the late Lyman H. Low was the manager and it was he who produced the first Standard Coin Catalogues, the last and best editions of which were published in 1893. At about that time it became evident to the Scott Company that dealing in stamps was more profitable than the sale of coins, so the department was closed and Mr. Low went into business for himself. From that time until 1930 the Scott Company had no coin department and no publications relating to coins.

Late in 1930 Wayte Raymond made an arrangement with Hugh M. Clark to operate a coin department in connection with the sale of the National Coin Album pages and various popular coins. This operation continued until the summer of 1945 when illness of the manager Leonard Kusterer, and lack of other competent help made it impossible to continue the project.

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NEW YORK

THE COIN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

FOUNDED BY JOHN W. SCOTT IN 1875

Published by WAYTE RAYMOND, INC.

654 Madison Avenue, New York 21, N. Y.

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WAYTE RAYMOND, Editor

FRANKLIN R. BRUNS, Jr., and GEORGE W. HUSKER, Associate Editors

Subscription Price, \$2.00 per Year in U.S.A. & Canada

All subscriptions begin with the issue current when subscription is received, provided we have copies on hand. If current issue is exhausted subscription will start with the next number. Back copies or single copies will be supplied, if possible.

Vol. 13, No. 5 New York, September-October, 1946 Whole No. 109

It gives us much pleasure to announce that Mr. George Husker has returned from five years of military service overseas, and will once again contribute to the Journal pages. As an Associate Editor, Mr. Husker will assume complete charge of the Journal department "Coins of the World" which lists the new issues, corrections for the book "Coins of the World," and general information on all foreign coins. We know our readers will again welcome his accurate and informative contributions.

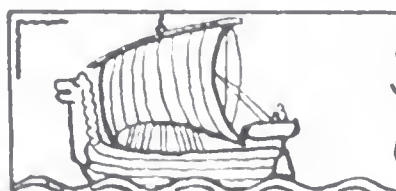
* * *

For months we were uncertain that sufficient paper could be secured for the twelfth edition of the Standard Catalogue of United States Coins. When we finally found enough paper, we also found it was impossible to have it delivered due to the current trucking strike. With luck, we hope that the 1947 edition will be off the presses sometime in November. This year again, there are many valuation changes, due to the steadily rising prices in most coin series. To the Pattern Coin section we have added the most popular of this series—the Pattern Cents. In future editions of the catalogue Patterns will not be listed in such detail as it is the publisher's intention to issue a separate book—"United States Pattern Coins and Trial Pieces." In consideration of many requests, the new edition will contain the Spanish issues for the Philippines and the coins of Puerto Rico and Danish West Indies. The publishers regret that it has been necessary to raise the price of the catalogue to \$3.50.

(Continued on page 150)

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STORY AND DESIGN OF MODERN COINS



Costa Rica No's. 1, 2.

Costa Rica. C of W No. 1

Christopher Columbus is the only person to be portrayed on the coins of Costa Rica, another of the Central American Republics. This honor resulted from his several voyages of exploration to the New World, but was principally due to his fourth, and last, trip.

After having made three journeys to what he finally conceived might be a land barrier blocking his course to Cathay and the Orient, Columbus persisted in his endeavors. He succeeded in gaining support for a fleet of four caravels and a crew. On May 11, 1502 he left Cadiz and, after skirting the shore southward disembarked about September 25 in Cariari Bay where the present seaport of Limon has since been established.

He found the local Indians to be pleasant, but his crew was mutinous and forced him, to some extent, to set aside his prime object of seeking the passage he had hoped to find between the islands so that his men might explore for gold.

Accomplishing little he returned to Spain during November, 1506, to find Queen Isabella dead and King Ferdinand unappreciative. He sought to secure recognition for his rights and remuneration, but without success, and died in poverty. His explorations were, as history has shown, of tremendous importance to the human race, and a later people have given him the honor he so well earned. Costa Rica even based its monetary structure on the Colon, which variously equaled 100 centimos or 100 centavos.



Salvador No. 1

Salvador. C of W No. 1

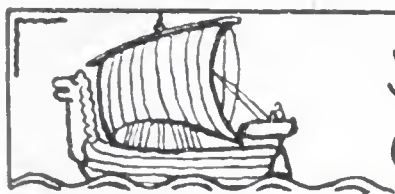
Each of the Central American republics has its individual hero, responsible for its discovery, conquest or freedom. In the case of San Salvador, smallest of the five Central American Republics, the "hero" is Pedro de Alvarado, a Spaniard active in the discovery and conquest of America, born at Badajoz about 1495.

He commanded an expedition from Cuba to Yucatan in early 1518, returning with glowing reports of the wealth of the Montezuma empire. In the following year he was in command of one of the eleven vessels under Hernando Cortez in the expedition seeking the conquest of Mexico.

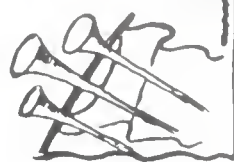
As first officer under Cortez he was left in charge of Mexico City after its fall, and subsequently took part in the conquest of Guatemala—of which he became Governor through appointment of Charles V.

Alvarado invaded the site of Salvador in 1524, and early in the following year defeated the Indians, capturing their capital—Cuscatlan—and placing the area under the captain-generalcy of Guatemala. Twelve years later he was also named Governor of Honduras. Death came in 1541.

To mark the fourth centenary of San Salvador—or better the 400th year of its "freedom" thanks to the efforts of Alvarado, a 20 Colones gold piece and a 1 Colon silver piece were minted in Mexico in 1925 for San Salvador portraying Alvarado and then-President Quinonez on the obverse, and the national coat of arms on the reverse. Both items are very rare.



STORY AND DESIGN OF MODERN COINS



Panama No's. 1-9

Panama. C of W No. 1

In the case of Panama its favored character is Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Spanish explorer and conquistador, who was born at Jerez de los Caballeros in Extremadura, Spain, about 1475. In 1501 he had followed Rodrigo de Bastidas in his voyage of discovery to the west, and nine years later—faced with debts—he smuggled aboard one of the two “provision” ships arranged for by Ojeda for the settlement at San Sebastian.

Finding the settlement in ruins Balboa urged Enciso, leader of the expedition, to sail for Darien, where they founded the town of Sta Maria de la Antigua del Darien. A quarrel developed shortly and Enciso was deposed and sent to Spain.

Balboa, then solely the leader, heard of the ocean (Pacific) across the mountains, and of the gold in what is now Peru. When notified he had been sentenced for his actions against Enciso, and ordered to return to Spain, Balboa decided to mollify his ruler by some great deed. Therefore, in 1513, he crossed the mountains and on September 29 took possession of the “Great South Sea” in the name of the King of Spain.

He crossed the isthmus at Panama several times. Unfortunately for his dreams of conquest and discovery an expedition under Pedrarias Davila (Don Pedro Arias de Avila) sailed from Spain to replace him as Governor of Darien. Davila, in jealousy, had Balboa imprisoned, tried and executed at Acla in 1517.



Nicaragua 1-7

Nicaragua. C of W No. 1

Another Central American nation basing its monetary unit upon an early explorer is Nicaragua, which uses the Cordoba (equal to 100 centavos) in honor of Francisco Hernandez de Cordoba, Spanish soldier and explorer.

It is known that he was born about 1475. He unquestionably took part in earlier voyages, but the *Americana* notes first that he sailed to Panama under Pedrarias Davila or, as sometimes known, Don Pedro Arias de Avila, who was sent from Spain to replace Vasco Nunez de Balboa. As noted in the Panama article Davila had Balboa imprisoned, tried and executed out of jealousy shortly after his arrival at Panama, and it is probable Cordoba knew of the plans.

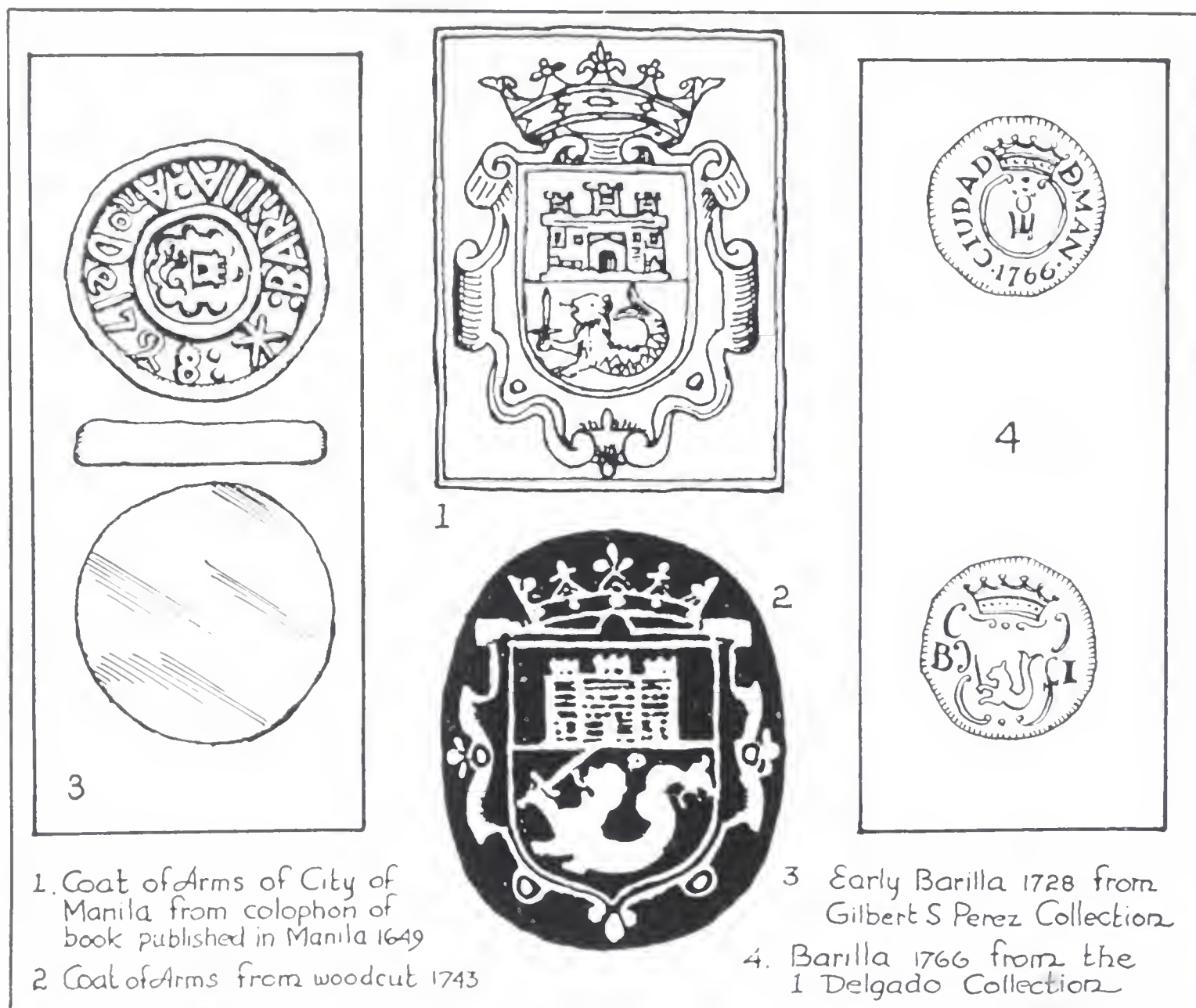
After this episode Davila dispatched Cordoba to Nicaragua and ordered him to take possession. Subsequently Cordoba founded the towns of Granada and Leon, along with others, and discovered the outlet of Lake Nicaragua.

Then Cordoba, too, felt the wrath of Davila, for he was accused, in this instance of disloyalty in trying to set up an independent government. He was beheaded on orders from Davila at Leon during March of 1526.

The Nicaraguan coins bear a bust of Francisco Hernandez de Cordoba, facing slightly right, on the obverse, and the mountain-peaks and sun rays on the reverse.

THE COPPER COINAGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

GILBERT S. PEREZ



As was the case in other Spanish colonies, copper did not circulate extensively in the Philippines until the latter part of the 18th century. In spite of hundreds of years of commerce with China, comparatively few Chinese coins are found in the Philippines by archaeologists. Most of the trade was on a barter basis but if the Filipinos had any desire to obtain copper the Chinese traders would certainly have accommodated them. Furthermore there was no need to import copper as copper had been extensively smelted by the Igorrotes of the Luzon Mountain regions long before the coming of the Spaniards.

During the early years of the 17th century large crude copper coins were issued but evidently without government approval as no documentary evidence for their issuance has been found for the striking of these ungainly looking copper coins. In the collection of the writer is an uniface specimen with the legend BARILLA año de 1728. Documents on the origin of this issue have not been located.

The Barillas of 1766-69

The barillas of 1766-69 were the first copper experimental coins issued by the Spanish Government in the Philippines

and were issued as an emergency measure. On account of the scarcity of copper money in Manila, the senior regidor of the Municipal Council, Domingo de la Sierra in 1766, requested the authorities to strike the coins which were called "barillas" because their shape was that of a parallelogram. The government complied with this request ordaining that only (the amount) P5000 should be coined, to be used only in Tondo (Manila) and Cavite. (Blair and Robertson, Vol. I, p. 28). This date given by Blair and Robertson is incorrect for the fiscal gave his assent to the manufacture of barillas on February 16, 1765. This is shown by the entry in Vianos Repuestas (MS) Vol. 89; he makes the express stipulation that these barillas be used only for petty payments and not for important transactions. From folio 108 it appears that these coins were immediately made but in great haste and were recalled by the authorities late in March. From this time on the Filipinos used the term "barillas" for all copper coins.† No examples of these klippe coins are found in Philippine collections although they might be found in some European collections erroneously attributed to Spain or to some of the Spanish possessions. The shape of these coins must have been unsatisfactory for we know that round "barillas" were issued in 1766 by the Ayutamiento de Manila. These were made of pinchbeck metal, copper, and tin and could be used in retail purchases and were valued at a grano of one tomin. Because of the introduction of counterfeits and because they bore the coat of arms of Manila and not the Royal Coat of Arms, their circulation was finally prohibited.

Carlos III did not care about or approve of the circulation of copper coins in his dominions and especially objected to coins which did not bear the royal arms. When the Municipal Council (Ayutamineto) again asked authority to

make barillas for use in the provinces, by Royal decree King Carlos ordered that six thousand pesos in *silver* quartillas, that is silver fourths of reales, be sent from Mexico to the Philippines with the provision that all copper coins be withdrawn and that any coin made should bear the royal arms within the limits allowed to Sto. Domingo as appears in Ley 8 Titulo XX Book IV of the Leyes de las Indias. In this King Carlos emphasized his disapproval of having coins circulating in his dominions which did not have the royal coat of arms of His Catholic Majesty. The silver quartillas sent to the Philippines from the Mexico mint were the undated variety as the dated Mexican quartillas were not issued until 1782. In the Delgado collection is a round barilla dated 1766 with the coat of arms of the city of Manila on the obverse and a crown surmounting a conventionalized pomegranate on the reverse. Another badly worn specimen was in the Bantug collection.

Numismatic cataloguers sometimes attribute to Spain any coin which bear the castle of ancient Castille while some coins of Spanish provenance are ascribed to Manila if it has a half lion and half dolphin even if it is not surmounted with a castle. Cataloguers and collectors of Hispanic copper coins should carefully study the Manila coat-of-arms in order to correct wrong attributions of coins which were struck at and for the City of Manila and to avoid attributing to the Philippines coins with a dolphin device but which were issued for and in Spain. On the 20th of March, 1596 King Philip the II bestowed upon the "ensigne y siempre leal" City of Manila a coat of arms "such as is possessed by other cities of the Indies. It shall consist of a shield which shall have in its upper part of a golden castle on a red field closed by blue doors and windows and which shall be surmounted by a crown and on the lower half on a blue field, a half lion and half dolphin of silver armed and langued gules (red nails and tongue). The said

† Blair and Robertson, Vol. I, p. 28.

lion shall hold in his paw a sword with guards and hilt." †

The use of copper, however, did not seem to appeal to the people at first, but in 1782 or a few years earlier, we find that copper coins were issued in the name of the king. These were struck in denominations of ochavos and cuartos during the reigns of Carlos III, Carlos IV, Ferdinand VII, and Isabela II. These coins have the coat-of-arms of Spain on the obverse and the coat-of-arms of Manila on the reverse, the latter showing the intimate relation between the cuarto and the Manila barillas of 1765 and 1769. However, during the reign of Ferdinand VII (1824), some of these appeared with the bust of Ferdinand VII on the obverse and the royal arms on the reverse. In 1834 a few ochavos bearing the name of Ferdinand VII, were coined in Manila, as the news of the death of the king in 1833 did not reach the Philippines until early in the following year. Although common in the Philippines, it is difficult to obtain any of cuartos and ochavos in fine extra-fine conditions.

Because of the great variety of dies utilized in this coinage, it would not be possible to list all of the cuartos and ochavos struck during the period between 1780 and 1835. There was no mint and the coinage was entrusted to private Chinese contractors and that may be the reason why there were so many die varieties. As some of the die engravers were illiterate, we find reversed letters and numbers. II ISP instead of Hisp, 182 e instead of 1829 and other mistakes which bear evidence that the die cutters were copying a picture and not utilizing a legend. Many of these coins have the appearance of counterfeits and are so crudely struck as to give the impression that they were counterfeits struck in order to defraud the government. When the quality of the copper was of the proper weight the crude coins circulated side by side with the so-called legal but less crude official vintage. Many of the

crude types show as much evidence of actual use as an exchange medium as the heavier and better struck specimens.

In 1834 and 1835, 1, 2 and 4 cuartos of Isabella II were issued but not in great numbers. Because of the facility of counterfeiting cuartos and ochavos by the Chinese in Manila, it was decided to utilize the Isabella V, 1/2, 1, 2, 4 and 8 maravedis struck at the Jaca, Barcelona, and Segovia mints. With the exception of the Sipeñ casts made in the Mountain Province by the Igorots, none of these imported copper coins were extensively counterfeited—at least not in a great number as was the case with the crude ochavos and cuartos coined in Manila. The Spanish coinage may be considered a Philippine issue as it was brought to the Philippines by the government expressly for circulation in the Philippines and was of the same fineness and weight as the Manila quarto issues.

It may be possible that the cuartos and medio cuartos were struck previous to 1782 but this author has not seen any listed with a date earlier than 1782. The earliest is a 1782 quarto listed in the Newman collection and another in very poor condition in the author's own collection. The earliest date in the Fonrobert collection was 1805.

The coins dated 1828 and 1830 were very crude, of lower weight and many were found with the date evidently worn off. However, a recent hoard has been discovered consisting of about 80, 1829-1830 cuartos. These are very crude and the majority were so badly struck that in most of them, the date does not appear. However, every coin is in mint condition and with a mint bloom, showing that many of the 1829 and 1830 cuartos which were formerly believed to be without dates because of wear were without date because they were poorly struck on very thin and imperfect planchets.

The Igorotte Sipeñs

The sipeñ coinage was a unique example of a government tolerating the

† Royal Edict of March 20, 1596.

circulation of obvious counterfeits and of coins which were crude and primitive in appearance and which did not even pretend to be identical with coin of the realm. In Barrow's *A Decade of American Government* may be found the statement that in northern Luzon, forgeries called *sipings* circulated freely in the district. These were crude cast coins fabricated by the Bontoc Igorot head-hunters from native copper mined by primitive methods in the village of Man-kayan, Bontoc Province.¹

In Jenk's *The Montoc Igorote*, the author observes that "for years the Igorotes of the copper region of Suyok and Man-kayan have manufactured a counterfeit copper coin called "sipen". All the half dozen copper coins current in the active commercial district of the islands are here counterfeited and the sipen passes at the high rate of 80 per peso. It is common and indispensable. A crude die is made of clay and has to be made anew for each sipen coin."² As the Igorots were illiterate they interpreted the legends in the coins as mere dots and disks. There is a striking similarity between these coins and the imitations of Greek coins struck by barbarian tribes in the ancient world. There is absolutely no intention to counterfeit the current coin. In addition to the sipens made in imitation of the copper coins there are also copper casts of the Mexican peso and the 50 centavos Silver Alfonsos and Isabelas. These pass at a higher rate of exchange from 20 to 40 per peso and are often holed and strung together and used as a decoration that hangs from the belt of the Igorotte warriors.

These sipens are of great interest because even the American Government redeemed them at a centavo each irrespective of weight and size. Treasurers in the Mountain Province shipped bagful of these sipens to Manila for recoinage

into centavos. As the copper in them was fine and they weighed more than the other copper coins the government loss was comparatively little in the transaction. A time limit however was set after which these were not redeemable by the government.

The Conant Copper

From 1835 to 1903, there are no records showing that any copper coins were issued by the government other than the Spanish copper ochavos, quartos and 2 and 4 quartos coined at the mints in Barcelona and Jaca in Spain. Patterns of 2 centavo struck in bronze and copper and of the 20, 40 and 80 reales in copper were struck in Paris in the coin press which was afterwards set up in the Casa de Moneda, Manila in 1861. Of the 20, 40, and 80 reales issue there are two varieties, one with a large star and other with a smaller star on the obverse.

During the first few years of American occupation, Spanish, Borneo, Hong Kong, Sarawak, and Singapore coppers were accepted as small change. In 1903, the new Philippine copper coins, the 1c and 1/2 centavo were struck at the Philadelphia mint. The design for these coins was made by Melecio Figueroa, a Filipino engraver formerly employed in the Casa de Moneda de Manila. The one centavos were struck annually at this mint until 1905. Proofs were also struck from 1903 to 1906 and in 1908. No copper centavos were struck in 1907 and from 1908 to 1920 all were struck at the San Francisco mint.

In 1920 the mint at Manila was established and copper centavo coins without a mint mark were there in 1920, 1921, 1922. In 1925, the mint mark M was placed on all Philippine coins minted in Manila. In 1937 the reverse of the centavos was changed, the Commonwealth seal taking the place of the American coat of arms surmounted by the American eagle. These were coined at the Manila mint from 1937 to 1941. When the Japanese invaded the country all

¹ Barrows, "A Decade of American Government in the Philippines."

² Jenks, "The Bontoc Igorotte", Bureau of Printing, Manila.

copper coins were either confiscated or went “underground.” On the arrival of General McArthur, he brought with him the 1944 (victory) copper centavo struck in the San Francisco mint and which is identical in design with the 1937-41 issue struck at the Manila mint.

The 1/2 centavo piece was too small to be very popular and only two issues were made of this diminutive copper coin, one in 1903 and one in 1904. There are however proofs of the 1/2 centavo bearing the following dates: 1903 to 1906 and 1908. With the present inflation the amount of copper in circula-

tion is very much less than it was in 1941. Few articles can be purchased now for 1 centavo. Perhaps that may be the reason why we have both the 1944 and 1945 issues of the nickle and silver victory coins and only the 1944 copper centavo.

It is believed that there are many coins struck in Manila in museums and collections that are wrongly attributed to Spain. A close study of the coat of arms of Manila, illustrated in this article, should help collectors in identifying coins which were struck in and for Manila.

Coinage of the United States, by Mints,
During the Month of July, 1946

Denomination	Philadelphia	San Francisco	Denver
SILVER			
Half dollars	\$ 683,000.00	.....	.....
Quarter dollars	2,164,000.00	.....	.....
Dimes	989,000.00	.....	.....
MINOR			
Five-cent pieces ...	1,011,400.00	\$ 108,000.00	\$ 301,400.00
One-cent pieces	1,126,450.00	183,000.00	233,950.00

Coinage Executed for Foreign Governments

Mint	Country	Metal	Denomination	No. of Pieces
San Francisco	Colombia	Cupro-nickel	5 Centavos	1,530,000

Coinage of the United States, by Mints,
During the Month of August, 1946

Denomination	Philadelphia	San Francisco	Denver
SILVER			
Half dollars	\$949,000.00	.....	.....
Quarter dollars	2,466,000.00	.....	.....
Dimes	2,818,000.00	.....	.....
MINOR			
Five-cent pieces	968,600.00	.....	\$386,400.00
One-cent pieces	1,367,400.00	\$292,000.00	406,200.00

THE COINS OF COLONIAL AMERICA

By PHARES O. SIGLER

CHAPTER XII

BUNGTOWN COPPERS

INTRODUCTION

The Bungtown tokens are a puzzle to modern collectors and it will probably require many years of painstaking study by some interested numismatist before the key to their history is discovered. It is true that a lot has been written concerning them, both at the time of their appearance and later, but the early commentators who decried the fraud being perpetrated on the public by these coppers never bothered to describe a single specimen, but always lumped the despised coppers into a group labeled *Birmingham* or *Bungtown* coppers. As a result we are somewhat at a loss to know exactly which colonial tokens were included. To add to the confusion the name *Bungtown*, as we shall see later, probably changed its meaning as the years passed.

From 1648 to 1673 thousands of tokens were in circulation in England and the issuance of a royal proclamation prohibiting their manufacture and circulation had little effect because of the shortage of legal coins of smaller denominations. By 1787 the English halfpence and farthings were so extensively debased and counterfeited that scarcely one fourth of the halfpence and one tenth of the farthings in circulation in England were produced at the mint. To relieve this situation, merchants, manufacturers, and cities struck or procured tokens which at first contained almost their denominational value in copper and bore the promise of the issuer to redeem them on demand. Later, however, less copper was used and thousands of tokens were issued without pledge of redemption.

The Bungtowns are thought to have first appeared sometime during the middle of the eighteenth century as a result of successful efforts of the Solicitor of the Mint in putting an end to the forging of halfpence and farthings in the form of direct copies of the genuine copper coins. It is said that early in the spring of 1751 the former forgers "published their works in a new edition, that is no longer cast in sand, but stamped in a press with a variety of impressions, all distinguishable from one another and from the genuine half pence".¹ Nowhere was the fraudulent character of these pieces better illustrated than in their dates, a few of which were apparently fixed many years prior to the actual manufacture of the pieces. Remembering that they were first issued during the middle of the eighteenth century, it will be observed that their dates range from 1686 to 1789, although the majority fall within the decade of 1770 to 1780.

The Bungtowns generally recognized by numismatists of today are those coppers of varying weight and design described by James Atkins as "Imitations of the Regal Coinage" in his *Tradesmens Tokens of the Eighteenth Century*. This list, while comprehensive omits many varieties and a few types which have come to light since his time. Many of the legends are in Latin, perhaps to confuse the uneducated poor into whose purses they came to repose, and some amusing combinations result from the indiscriminate use of reverse dies bearing legends foreign to those on the obverses. For example: GREGORY III PON—BONNY GIRL; GEORGEIVS WASHINGTON—NORTH WALES; IOHN SON PUGALIST—MUSIC CHARMES; and SHAKESPEAR—INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

¹ Gentlemen's Magazine Vol. XXII p. 500.



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Name

The imitations described by Atkins were known in England as "Birmingham Coppers" and "Brummagem", the latter being a corruption of the name of the city where most of the tokens were struck. One contemporary reference to the name *Bungtown* appeared in the *Newport Mercury* in 1787 in which was stated: "By a correspondent of good intelligence we are informed that all copper by law in New York, except Bungtowns, are fixed at 100 for a dollar".² The most generally accepted explanation of the origin of the word *Bungtown* is that it was suggested by the English slang *to bung*, meaning to cheat or deceive, although some writers attribute it to the supposed origin of some of the Bungtown coppers of Barneysville, a village in the township of Rehoboth, Bristol County, Massachusetts, said to have been known as *Bungtown* in its early days.

It is believed that *Bungtown* was a more or less sarcastic nickname given to coppers below the accepted standard, and a *general* rather than a *specific* term. Irrespective of the original meaning, the evidence points to the fact that the word *Bungtown* was subsequently broadened to include all base and worthless coppers, for we find that it was used years later to describe the "Hard Times" tokens of the Jackson era and the Canadian "Blacksmith" tokens.

Places of Manufacture

It is certain that practically all of the Bungtowns known to Atkins were made in England; most of them at Birmingham, but some at other cities such as London, Wedgbury, Bilston and Wolverhampton.³ Many began their careers as blank flans of the required size and thickness after which they were delivered to the coiners for stamping. The manufacturer of the blanks could place himself beyond prosecution by maintaining with a show of innocence that his wares were for purposes other than coinage as, for example, blanks used in the manufacture of buttons.

Numismatic commentators have variously asserted, or in some instances implied, that some of the Bungtown coppers had their origin in Massachusetts; Vermont; Ulster County, New York; Connecticut; and Rhode Island. None of the proofs presented, however, are persuasive unless we conclude that the term includes the counterfeit British halfpence made at the place where the Vermont and Connecticut coppers were struck. As an indication of the contemporary suspicion that some of the tokens were of local manufacture, the following is quoted from an American magazine of April, 1788. "The circulation of the *Birmingham* and other counterfeit and base coin, should be totally suppressed, whereby an end would be put to the iniquitous trade of importing into this country (*or manufacturing here*) such base coin, and purchasing gold and silver with it, of nearly four times its intrinsic value (comparing their nominal sums) for exportation; a trade which is carried to a most alarming height, and attended with very dangerous consequences."⁴ (Italics supplied). At the present time, the exact place of origin of many of the Bungtowns remains unknown.

Other Possible Bungtowns

The *Bungtowns* offered on today's market are very inexpensive, but surprisingly few are offered for sale. An American dealer described 38 Bungtown halfpence and 6 farthings in a sale in 1920 and this seems to be the largest offering in recent years. One possible explanation for the conflict between the reported abundance of Bungtowns and their present day scarcity, is that counterfeit British halfpence and certain

² Craigie, Sir William—A Dictionary of American English on Historical Principles. Vol. 1. p. 356.

³ Colquhoun, Patrick. p. 111.

⁴ American Journal of Numismatics. Vol. 7 p. 23.



American Colonial tokens other than those described by Atkins were included in the term of Bungtowns.

Prior to a thorough study of eighteenth century counterfeit British halfpence by Wylls Betts in his article *Counterfeit Half Pence* published in 1886, these pieces were believed to have been manufactured in Birmingham, England. He concluded, however, that some of the counterfeit half pennies of George III after 1775 were made in America, and that some of them were from the same mints which produced the coins of Connecticut and Vermont. We know that British counterfeits were sent to our shores in great numbers and that as they were brought into discredit in England, the volume of their export increased. One English author, in referring to copper pieces in circulation in his country, stated that: "more than half the circulation was in base Birmingham imitations. A great number of these counterfeits, after they were decried in England, were shipped to America, where they circulated as cents."⁵ Since *both* Bungtowns and counterfeits were made in Birmingham, it is possible that *both* were originally described as Birmingham coppers there, and as Bungtown coppers here, since the two names were used synonymously in America. Several of the outstanding students of colonial coins and tokens have agreed that these counterfeits might have been so described by the colonists. Although most of the Atkins Bungtowns did not even faintly resemble the British half pence, the counterfeits were almost identical with the genuine coins.

⁵ Golding, Charles. p. 77, 78.

In addition to counterfeits, it is possible that other pieces not heretofore suspected were actually Bungtowns. Many early American tokens, especially those classified as "Miscellaneous" have an obscure history. Modern writers place too much emphasis on the patriot appeal of these tokens, and too little upon the fact that they were light in weight and seldom redeemable by their issuers. The complaints against the Bungtown were not that they were crudely designed and poorly struck, but that they were a fraud because they were light in weight, of poor metal, and not redeemable at their face value.

Many of the early American tokens were as deficient in weight as the Bungtowns, were manufactured in Birmingham and imported into this country, and bore no promise of redemption. The following could well have been Bungtowns, and several of them are listed by Atkins as "Imitations": Kentucky token; Nova Constellatio coppers; North American, Auctorii Plebiis and Georgius Triumpho tokens; the Bar cent; the Franklin Press Cent; and some of the Washington tokens. It is very probable that if one of our ancestors had in his purse one counterfeit British halfpence, one of the tokens described by Atkins, and one of the above American tokens, he would have referred to all of them as *Bungtowns*, especially if he possessed them at the time when merchants refused to accept them, or offered to receive them at a discount.

The state copper coinages were frequently discounted when presented for payment in states other than that of their issue, and this was especially true of the lighter pieces. In the circumstances, it is within the realm of possibility that such coppers were classed as Bungtowns in the states where they were being discounted. An interesting little rime which appeared on page 3 of Vol. XIII, *American Journal of Numismatics* (January, 1879) cannot be used as authority, but it does show that the above thought isn't original:

"A rustic youth of numismatic mind,
While buying "brummies"* to increase his lot,
Was asked if new or rare ones he did find—
Replied with knowing wink, that 'some' he'd got,
'Mister', in confidential tones said he,
'The luck I've had is such one rarely finds:
I've one Varmount, one Novy Cesaree,
And of Connecticut, I've got *both kinds*' "

Circulation

The fact that the Bungtowns were imported from England naturally led to their circulation in the cities of the Atlantic Seaboard states and one writer⁶ said: "These private coins flooded the currency and became a matter of universal complaint. They were especially troublesome in the Atlantic cities". Some of the tokens circulated in Massachusetts and their prevalence in Vermont is said to have made further minting operations of the State mint unprofitable, and led to its closing. McMaster says that so many Bungtowns had been thrown into Rhode Island that the legislature found it necessary to pass a law prohibiting their circulation.⁷

There were so many bad coppers in New York City that the Bungtowns were freely accepted and it was reported that: "There was not a handful of genuine pennies in the town, and every British ship that came into port added to the quality of bad ones".⁸ We also find that the following comment in a letter written from that State

* Apparently a contraction of "Brummagem"—the nickname applied to Bungtowns in England.

⁶ Carothers, Neil. p. 44.

⁷ McMaster, John B. Vol. 1, p. 400.

⁸ Ibid.

in 1789: There has been a mighty convulsion here lately on account of the coppers. We abound with them in this place and they are generally light and bad. On a sudden the merchants refused to take them at more than half and some at more than one third, that they had passed at. At Philadelphia I hear they have fared much in the same manner."⁹ It is doubted that the Bungtowns were more abundant in any state than in New York, not because so much information is available concerning their presence there, but because of the need of copper coins for the extensive commerce of that state.

Some bad coppers circulated in New Jersey even in competition with the State's copper coinage; these included counterfeit of the local coinage. In an act passed June 4, 1787, entitled "An act to Prevent the Circulation of bad and light coppers in this state" the preamble recited: "Whereas, the Circulation of Coppers which are of base Metal, and below the proper standard, must be productive of great Evils to the commercial Part of this State, if not timely prevented."¹⁰

Crosby's discussion of Bungtowns in a chapter captioned "Pennsylvania" apparently furnished Frey with his authority for the statement that the Bungtowns "circulated extensively in Pennsylvania and the other states". It is believed that this State had no more than many of the coastal states, and not nearly as many as New York. Because of the lack of a state coinage of copper both New York and Pennsylvania doubtless offered a tempting market for the coppers. The early German colonists living in the eastern part of Pennsylvania apparently received more than their just share.¹¹

Like Rhode Island, New York and New Jersey, Pennsylvania passed laws prohibiting the circulation of the Bungtowns.

Heretofore historians and numismatists have not referred to the circulation of Bungtowns in the South, but in a letter dated August 25, 1787 to Thomas Pinckney, Governor of the State of South Carolina. John Hinckley Mitchell, a Charlestonian, wrote: "I must also beg leave to remark to your Excell'y that the Copper British Coin at present in circulation in South Carolina, is not generally understood. It is not of the King's coinage at the Tower of London, but a base mixed metal, or imitation called here counterfeits—of little or no value—made on purpose by persons who run the risk of the law by so doing, and which base money is bought by persons of every description who come to America, for the purpose of passing them as current."¹²

Carothers said: "Historically, conditions arising in the development of the fractional currency (which he defines as coins and paper notes of a value less than one dollar) have had a decisive influence in determining the course of the United States finance. Failure to recognize these facts had led currency historians to misinterpret major events in our currency history"¹³ and again¹⁴ he claims that the popular dislike of the "debased tokens" was undoubtedly the cause of the first efforts to establish a national coinage. This being true it seems worthwhile to attempt to learn more about the Bungtowns.

⁹ *Numismatist*—Vol. 41, p. 337.

¹⁰ *Hickcox, John H.*—p. 108.

¹¹ *Elder, Thomas*—p. 130.

¹² *Mitchell, Boulton*, p. 6.

¹³ *Carothers, Neil*—p. 6.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* pp. 44, 45.

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Canadian Coin Notes

BY J. DOUGLAS FERGUSON

Five Cent Victory Coin 1943

This coin which was struck in Tombac, featured a new design for the reverse which was evolved by the Mint staff in Ottawa late in 1942.

All designs and master dies for Canadian coins had previously been prepared in the Royal Mint in London. This is the first instance that the original matrix and punch for a new coin has been engraved at the Ottawa Mint. The engraver was Mr. Thomas Shingles.

Many favorable comments have been made on the appearance of this coin. The central motif of "V" indicates both the denomination (the Roman numeral for 5) and also symbolizes victory as made so popular during the critical period of the war by Mr. Churchill.

With this symbol is cojoined a torch emblematic of sacrifice. The suggestion in this way indicated is that victory will come by sacrifice and willingness to work. The words "Canada" above and "cents" below, the year of minting and two small maple leaves complete the reverse design.

Around the border in Morse code the following slogan appears "We win when we work willingly."

The official proclamation authorizing this new design was dated the 17th of November 1942 and was published in the "Canada Gazette" of the 2nd of January 1943. This authorized the new design as of the latter date.

The coin was struck with twelve sides as in 1942 to overcome confusion with coins of other denominations.

The obverse design was not changed.

24,760,256 of these pieces were coined.

Nova Scotia Tokens

Unquestionably the best and most interesting of the many splendid studies issued in booklet form by the late Doctor Courteau on various series of Canadian tokens was that published in 1910 by him

on the coins and tokens of Nova Scotia.

This publication well illustrates all of the varieties which are also described in detail in the contents.

If you are looking for a new series of interesting historical coins and tokens to work at, I would strongly recommend this group. The majority of them can be obtained without too much difficulty. Very often you will have the thrill of picking up some of the scarcer varieties in accumulations of coins in dealers' stock. They are becoming increasingly difficult to secure in uncirculated or very fine condition, but all the more will be your joy when they can be located in such a condition.

Perhaps the one most publicized is the half-penny token dated 1382 in error for 1832. This has always been a great favorite and is a desirable coin in any condition. This token is Courteau's variety No. 280.

Apparently when the reverse die of Courteau's No. 277 began to give way, the issuers of this token ordered a new die to be cut, at which time the engraver transposed the figures in the date, making it read "1382".

Apparently the error was noticed after a few coins had been struck and the die was altered to its correct date. In this way the reverse of Courteau's token No. 281 was produced. On coins of fine or better condition of No. 281 the erroneous date can be seen under the correct date.

A fine or better specimen of No. 280 is easily worth \$40. A poorly struck specimen should readily bring today \$30.

Another very rare Nova Scotia token is Courteau's variety No. 361 which has the same obverse as No. 360 which is also a rare piece. An interesting article on this token appeared in Volume 26 of NUMISMATIST.

You will have a lot of satisfaction in getting interested in this series. If you

have not a copy of Courteau I would suggest that you begin by collecting the varieties mentioned in Breton and Raymond, and if by that time you have not been able to secure a copy of Courteau's publication, that you would secure the loan of the one in the library of the American Numismatic Association. There is also a copy in the library of the American Numismatic Society.

Hopwood Token

Breton in his works on Canadian coins and tokens illustrates under Breton 898 a token which he inaccurately attributed to Canada. It rightfully belongs in the English series.

This may be welcome news to many students of Canadian numismatics who were not aware of this fact and who have been searching for this piece, since it is a very scarce one.

Canadian Patterns

Breton listed only three of the patterns of Canadian coins as struck at the Royal Mint. Of these the best known are Breton 861 and 862 which were struck in 1823 at a time when the suggestion was made that the British Colonies should all establish a common decimal system with a common coinage. It

is believed that twenty of each of these were struck. The denominations are of 1/50 and 1/100 of a dollar.

They have long been greatly sought after and a modest present-day valuation would be between \$35 and \$50.

The other pattern which was listed by Breton was No. 949. This may have been a mule rather than a true pattern. It is a 10c piece of Newfoundland dated 1871. Strangely the only specimen that I know of is the one referred to by Breton and which was found in circulation.

That great Canadian numismatist of years gone by, Mr. R. W. McLachlan, published in 1908 a booklet on these patterns struck at the Royal Mint for Canada. This he had republished with illustrations in the March 1913 NUMISMATIST. It listed all of the Canadian pattern coins as struck at the Royal Mint as known to Mr. McLachlan, who was one of the keenest students of Canadian numismatics. A few additional patterns have been struck and are located since. These have been listed by Mr. Bowman and will appear shortly in an article in one of our numismatic publications. It will be a very complete study of the pattern coins of Canada, which are a most interesting group.

Coinage of the United States, by Mints,
During the Month of June, 1946

Denomination	Philadelphia	San Francisco	Denver
SILVER			
Half dollars	\$477,000.00	.....	.....
Quarter dollars	2,185,000.00	.....	.....
Dimes	3,682,000.00	.....	.....
MINOR			
Five-cent pieces	1,055,600.00	\$275,000.00	\$234,600.00
One-cent pieces	235,800.00	50,000.00	101,750.00
Total minor	1,291,400.00	325,000.00	336,350.00

Coinage Executed for Foreign Governments

Mint	Country	Metal	Denomination	No. of Pieces
San Francisco	Colombia	Cupro-nickel	5 Centavos	1,800,000
San Francisco	Neth. E. Indies	Copper	1 Cent	476,000

Dear Publisher:

A lonely, sandy beach under the bluest of blue skies, is no place to write a column about coins. You can't carry a couple hundred "pieces of eight" around in your pants pocket—or maybe you can, but it would be hard going. How can you sling a bag over your shoulder filled with Hispano-American silver and not be noticeable around even this isolated Maine shoreline? Its risky. Just suppose you slipped off the dock at the landing. One of Bartholomew Sharpe's buccaneers returning by foot across the Isthmus of Panama, found that out in 1681. Poor George Gainey with three hundred dollars on his back tried to ford a swift stream. Down he went. His pals saw his body later, downstream by the shore, "and his Mony at his neck; but they were so fatigued, they car'd not to meddle with it."¹

The only ideas this columnist has, seem to be whether Kidd buried his loot ten feet below where I am lying on the hot sand. Which makes me think that the reason I am so fond of my 1701 Lima "cob" piece of eight, is probably because 1701 was the year that Kidd "the innocentest of them all" was swung. He was hanged at Execution Dock in Wapping on the Thames on a Friday the 23rd of May, 1701. There was no chance that my piece could have been in his pocket—his pockets were emptied by the officers of the crown long before.²

The curling, white capped combers are pounding up the beach and it is easy to imagine the captain being rowed ashore by a couple of his men, with the treasure chest. Howard Pyle would paint a couple of tattered seadogs staggering up towards the dunes with the chest between them. It would have to be a small chest. This dreamer owns one, all iron with nine locks. I dug it up one day in the patio of an antique shop in New

Orleans and the Hispanic Society has its mate on exhibit marked "Treasure Chest-17th Cen." Two men can pick it up—empty. There was no treasure in the chest when I bought it, the bird had flown. There is a small compartment inside with a separate lock and key for the rubies, pearls, diamonds and such small loot to be stored. Neither is there a false bottom with a waterstained map. It has room enough for two cubic feet of doubloons with plenty of space for them to clink. Two feet (cubic) of gold, weigh 2408 pounds. With the iron chest say, roughly, a ton and a quarter.

In the books the chest is tossed into the captain's gig. Pull ashore, my hearties, carry the chest a few hundred feet to the spot X, out with the shovels and down she goes. Bang! Bang! and the captain rows back alone,—dead men tell no tales. Those old seafaring scoundrels must have been Sandows, one and all. Or possibly the artists never tried lifting a small chest of loot.

After thirty years hunting the treasure, I will bet any reader a diagram of the hand-made lock workings on my chest against proof that he has ever seen any buried treasure dug up in a chest on a beach, and I hope I lose. From the back lot near the old barn and the cellar where the honest citizen buried his savings against robbers, comes most of the excavated treasure. Why would the buccaneers and pirates bury their gold? They spent it too freely when ashore to have any left to bury. Let an eye-witness speak;

"PIRATES WILL SPEND 2000 or 3000 PEICES (sic) OF EIGHT IN ONE NIGHT."³

¹ Lionel Wafer's narrative.

² *The Trial of Captain Kidd*, Edited by Graham Brooks, London, 1930.

³ A. O. Esquemelin, *The Bucaniers of America*: etc. London, 1684.

" . . . all these (prizes) they carried into Jamaica . . . and according to their custom, wasted in a few days, in Taverns and Stews, all they had gotten, by giving themselves to all manner of debauchery, with Strumpets and Wine. Such of these Pirates are found who will spend two or three thousand peices of eight, in one night, not leaving themselves peradventure a good shirt to wear, on their backs, in the morning. Thus upon a certain time I saw one of them give unto a common Strumpet, five hundred peices of eight, only that he might see her naked. My own Master would buy, in like occasions a whole pipe of wine, and placing it in the street, would force every one that passed by to drink with him; threatening also to Pistol them in case they would not do it. At other times he would do the same with Barrels of Beer, or Ale. And very often, with both his hands he would throw these liquors about the streets, and wet the cloathes of such as walked by without regarding, whether he spoil'd their Apparrel or not, were they Men, or Women.

"Among themselves, and to each other, these Pirates are extreamly liberal and free. If any of them hath lost all his goods which often happeneth in their manner of life, they freely give him, and make him partaker of what they have. In Taverns, and Ale houses, they always have great credit, but in such houses at Jamaica, they ought not to run very deep in debt, seeing the inhabitants of that Island, do easily sell one another for debt. Thus it happened unto my Patron, or Master, to be sold for a debt of a Tavern, wherein he had spent the greatest part of his Mony. This Man had within the space of three months before, three thousand pieces of eight in ready cash; all which he wasted in that short space of time, and became so poor, as I have told you."

Silver was cheap in those days to the ones who could capture it by the ton. The piece of eight on October 16, 1686 was worth \$1.6988 and the gold doubloon weighing 17 pwt., 8 grains, was

worth the same year \$28.00, in U. S. coinage as of 1936 value.⁴

Listen to another narrator who was present at the time the loot was divided on a treasure trip;⁵

" . . . on the 11th we went about dividing the Gold, precious Stones and Pearls we had found in Queaquilla (Guayaquil); but as these things could not be divided, nor easily valued, the Gold not being coin'd, and the Stones of different Value, we put up all by way of Auction, that those who had Silver might bid for them, and so every Man have Part according as he bade; and as there were several among us who, having got considerable Sums of Money at Play, were sure, and, if it pleased God they should once get safe out of these Seas, their Way must be no other than over Land, where the weight of their Silver must hinder or retard their going; they bid for those Jewels that kept but little Room, and weigh'd not much, so Excessive a Price, that the Gold alone that was coined was worth eighty and an hundred Pieces of Eight an Ounce, and each Pistole fifteen of the Said Pieces.⁶ But, though these Things were sold so dear, we made no more a Division of the Booty of that Town than came to four hundred Pieces of Eight a Man; the whole might amount to about five hundred thousand Pieces of Eight, or fifteen hundred thousand Livres; which Money, as we were out of Hopes to carry with us, serv'd us to play for on Board our Ships for our Diversion. So . . . we sought now for nothing but Gold and precious Stones, which we did not find so plentifully as Silver of which . . . we made so little Account, that we thought not worth our While to take along with

⁴ J. Villasana Haggard, *Handbook for Translators of Spanish Historical Documents*, University of Texas, Austin, 1941.

⁵ Ravenau de Lussan, *A Journal of a Voyage, . . . by the Bucaniers or Freebooters of America. From the Year 1684, to 1689*. London 1741.

⁶ They were paying about \$153.00 in silver pieces of eight for a gold doubloon worth \$28.00 at this rate.

us a great Quantity of Plate and other things . . . We also neglected to send a Canoe after the hundred Caons of coin'd Silver, each consisting of eleven thousand Pieces of Eight, which the Spaniards had sent away to the other Side of the River . . . There is such a vast Quantity of that rich Metal in this Country (Peru), that most of those Things we make in France out of Steel, Copper, and Iron, are made by them in Silver."

The original narratives of the men who partook in these events; Basil Ringrose, Lionel Wafer, William Dampier, Esquemelin, Ravenau de Lussan, Batholo-

mew Sharpe and John Coxe, to name a few, are so filled with details regarding Spanish Colonial coins, that to gather all the material would fill an encyclopaedia of Numismatica-Piratica. Certainly such a background of romance should thrill the owners of a collection of these pieces.

** Two recent books are well worth owning if the subject interests the reader: *The Knights of the Cape*, from the *Tradiciones Peruanas* of Ricardo Palma, N. Y. 1945. Tales of colonial Lima in the days of the viceroys by a famous historian of Peru. *Caribbean, Sea of the New World* by Germán Arciniegas, N. Y. 1946. Worth owning if you like the history of the West Indies or intend to cruise the Caribbean this winter (or wish you could.)

GUARANTEED BY THE UNITED STATES

This guarantee occurs on the reverse of notes issued by the various states in 1780. They are as follows—

Maryland. June 28, 1780

Massachusetts. May 5, 1780

New Hampshire. April 29, 1780

New Jersey. June 9, 1780

New York. June 15, 1780

Pennsylvania. June 1, 1780

Rhode Island. July 2, 1780

Virginia. May 1, 1780.

The exact wording is as follows—
"The United States ensure the Payment of the within Bill and will draw Bills of Exchange for the Interest annually, if demanded, according to a Resolution of Congress, of the 18th of March 1780."
Signed by a commissioner of the United States.

With the exception of Rhode Island and Massachusetts all of these notes are very rare.

(Continued from page 131)

We know that the thousands of collectors who use the Popular Albums (A and B) for U. S. Small Cents and Lincoln Cents will be pleased to know that we have just completed five new additions to this series of albums. They are as follows: Popular Albums C, D, E, F & G for Liberty Head Nickels 1883-1912, Buffalo Nickels 1913-1938, Jefferson Nickels 1938-1946, Mercury-head Dimes 1916-1945 and Washington Quarters 1932-1946 respectively. Elsewhere in this issue there is an advertisement giving details. These albums are ideal as gifts for young numismatists and their inexpensiveness makes them popular for housing the extra sets most collectors accumulate.

(Continued on page 154)

COINS OF THE WORLD

Additions and Corrections

Mr. Gilbert C. Heyde of Sydney, Australia has contributed the following notes:

Australia—The Australian penny (CW No. 11) has a rare date in the 1930 issue. According to the Melbourne Mint no pence were struck or issued in that year but Australian collectors have located a few specimens dated 1930. The mint authorities have admitted that the pieces are genuine mint issues and hence there must have been a coinage of penny pieces in that year. The incident has received considerable publicity in the Australian press.

New Zealand—Waitangi crowns (CW No. 1), of which only a few more than a thousand were issued, are so sought after by collectors "down under" that their price has risen rapidly and they are unobtainable for less than \$15.00.

Netherlands East Indies—A specimen of the 1/2 cent piece (CW No. 14) dated 1945 and minted at Philadelphia has been seen. It is understood that these pieces have not been put into circulation because of the unsettled conditions prevailing in that locality.

We are further indebted to Mr. Heyde for the following information regarding coinage of new types as well as dates and mint marks not previously reported in *Coins of the World*.

New Issues

New Guinea (copper nickel)

Sixpence 1943—Type of George V.
coinage but with minor changes.

Threepence 1943—Similar

Siam (lead)

10 Satangs 1942 (BE 2485)—Similar
to CW 23

5 Satangs 1942 (BE 2485)—Similar

1 Satang 1942 (BE 2485)—Similar
but without center hole

20 Satangs 1945 (BE 2488)—Similar
to CW 23 but with value 20 and
date 2488 in Occidental rather than
Siamese numerals.

10 Satangs 1944 (BE 2487) and 1945
(BE 2488) — Similar except for
value

New dates

Australia

14 Florin 1945

15 Shilling 1944

16 Sixpence 1945

17 Threepence 1944

19 Penny 1945

20 Halfpenny 1946

Ceylon

22 One Cent 1940

22 One Cent 1942 (Thinner plan-
chet than preceding)

23 Half Cent 1940

Hong Kong

17 Ten Cents 1939

18 Five Cents 1939

Malaya

2 10 Cents 1941

3 5 Cents 1941

4 1 Cent 1940

5 1/2 Cent 1940

New Guinea

7 Shilling 1945

8 Penny 1944

New Zealand

7 Half crown 1945

8 Florin 1945

9 Shilling 1945

10 Sixpence 1945

11 Threepence 1945

13 Penny 1945

14 Halfpenny 1945

Palestine

- 3 20 Mils 1942
- 4 10 Mils 1942

East Africa

The 10 cent piece of Edward VIII (CW No. 11) was struck at the Royal Mint, London (no mint mark) in addition to the Birmingham Mint (mm—H) and King's Norton (mm—KN).

There has been received from the South African Numismatic Society an informative 16 page publication issued for private circulation and called "Notes From Our Scrap Book". The issue now on hand contains, among other material, an interesting article which indicates the possibility that the "Burgers Sovereigns" struck by order of President Burgers of the South African Republic were coined from a 15 pound gold nugget found by a Mrs. Russel of Durban at Pilgrim's Rest. The article relates that President Burgers bought the nugget for the State in 1874 and for some time exhibited it at Pretoria. At a meeting of the Volksraad in 1874 he presented every member with a

specimen of the coinage of sovereigns which he had ordered executed by Ralph Heaton and Sons of Birmingham, England. In the Transvaal "Staats Courant" of Nov. 4, 1874 a notice by the minters states that they had received from the Consul-General of the South African Republic in London a bar of gold weighing 256.275 ounces and from it had struck 837 pieces of the value and weight of the English pound. No further striking of Burgers sovereigns took place for the very good reason that each piece, of a current value of 20 shillings, cost 26 shillings to strike.

Lauren Benson of Davenport, Iowa has furnished us with an official explanation concerning the reason for the issuance of the Danish 25 Ore of 1926 (CW 4) with a center hole. During the blackout which prevailed in Greenland during the war years the 25 Ore piece was frequently confused with the Kroner. To permit ready differentiation between the two pieces it was decided to have holes punched in the 25 Ore coins. Following this decision the pieces were collected and shipped to the United States where the process was carried out.

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

By J. HUNT DEACON

The editors of *The Coin Collector's Journal*, and Messrs. Ferguson, Forrer, and Nesmith, are to be congratulated upon the way they are supplying news from afar, and I consider it a compliment indeed to be asked to join in this work.

The month of July opened up the new year for most of the numismatic groups here and now the war is passed there is a feeling that in the near future all the "loose ends" will have been gathered up and that numismatists all over the world will be taking up the study again with renewed interest, vigour, and enthusiasm.

On the last day of June, The Association of Australian Numismatists, which was established in July 1939, ceased to operate, but steps are being made to replace it by some sort of federation of the numismatic societies and thus continue the programme and work. The Association fulfilled a great work during the years of trouble in keeping members interested, and stood ready to prevent any serious effects should one of the societies have broken down. Despite a certain amount of apathy towards anything "federal" the Association started off with an excellent policy and programme only to find that within two months war had broken out. But for this it might have been, today, an important organisation. The possibilities of such a body with a comprehensive policy and adequate support are unlimited, and it is the lack of that individual support, among other factors, which resulted in the final decision to terminate its operations. It is hoped that in the near future I shall be able to record that its place has been taken by a different organisation.

"A "Victory Number" of "The Australian Numismatist" is being considered by a special committee, and this booklet will give some interesting and useful information regarding the Association and other numismatic bodies here. The future of this publication is a matter for serious consideration by the State societies.

Recently a new body, The Numismatic Association of Victoria, has been established. This will take the place of the old Numismatic Society there which did excellent work from 1914 to 1931. The Numismatic Societies of South Australia and New South Wales have operated throughout the war period, and they are to be congratulated; the former upon publishing its history and its yearly programmes; and the latter upon its excellent reports, book of rules, and membership cards. The Numismatic Society of Queensland which opened in January 1944 in response to a need in that State, has not yet commenced its meetings but this situation is not likely to remain for long.

Steps are being taken to re-open the Australian Numismatic Society founded in 1913, which for some time has been in recess. Its exact objective has not been decided upon as yet, but it is most probable that it will be limited in character, and of such a nature to interest, and appeal to, many numismatists in and out of Australia.

Perhaps the greatest drawback collectors are experiencing is the difficulty of securing specimens; and this too is felt by the few dealers here. Various regulations, charges, and imposts, are such that the trouble, and cost of importing has prevented the steady inflowing of material, particularly numismatic literature. It is rarely any good collection comes on the market, and then its distribution is usually localised. However, I feel that this state of affairs will pass and that collectors will be given greater advantages for securing additions and continuing study.

The great National collections, in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, are isolated; and the absence in the past of any reliable experts at the latter two has prevented their proper use by the more serious students and their display to the general public. In a similar way

the collections at the Melbourne Branch of the Royal Mint, and elsewhere are not being used to advantage. It would seem that to bring about the proper functioning of these collections, from the point of view of numismatist, educationists, historians and the public, that the best solution would be an amalgamation into a federal and national collection. It is pleasing to know that the collection of The Australian Museum in Sydney, which includes that formerly in The Mitchell Library, is now under the charge of Gilbert C. Heyde as Honorary Numismatist.

Formal approach to the Federal Government authorities has been made, but without success I am afraid, for a Victory or Peace Commemorative coin or coinage; for better designs on our money; and for the appointment of an Advisory Committee on the coinage with at least one numismatic representative.

At the present time there is no real

authorative reference book on Australiana, as Andrew's work published in 1921 is in many instances misleading, incorrect, and completely out-of-date. This state of affairs has been fully recognised by the experts in that branch of numismatics but no remedy has been possible during the war years. Now several of these serious students are working upon coins, tokens, paper money, and medals of Australia, with the hope that in the near future something of unquestionable authority will be published. Any collector possessing, or knowing of rare, unusual, or unedited specimens of Australian pieces, are recommended to send such information to the writer (at the National Gallery, South Australia), who will be happy to forward it to the student specialising in the particular branch concerned.

From the readers in Australia to those elsewhere . . . Greetings.

J.H.D.

* * *

(Continued from page 150)

Adding another link to our world-encompassing chain of numismatic news, we are pleased to welcome to these pages Mr. J. Hunt Deacon of the Department of Coins and Medals, National Gallery in Adelaide. Mr. Deacon has consented to send us periodic reports on numismatic activities "down under." With his knowledge of early and modern Australian coinage, and his wide acquaintance with those interested in their study, Mr. Deacon is well qualified to present a comprehensive picture of the numismatic situation in Australia today. His first letter, in this issue, gives an outline of present activities and the background of the present numismatic societies and their functions. Mr. Deacon's writings on Australian coinage have appeared in past years in "The Numismatist" and he is also a District Secretary of the American Numismatic Association.

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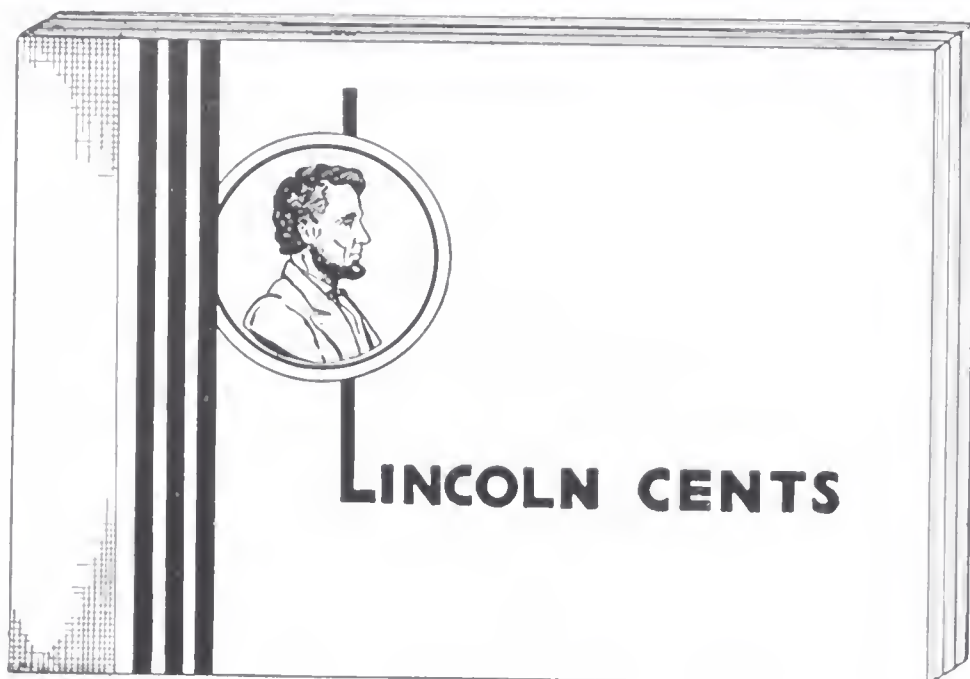
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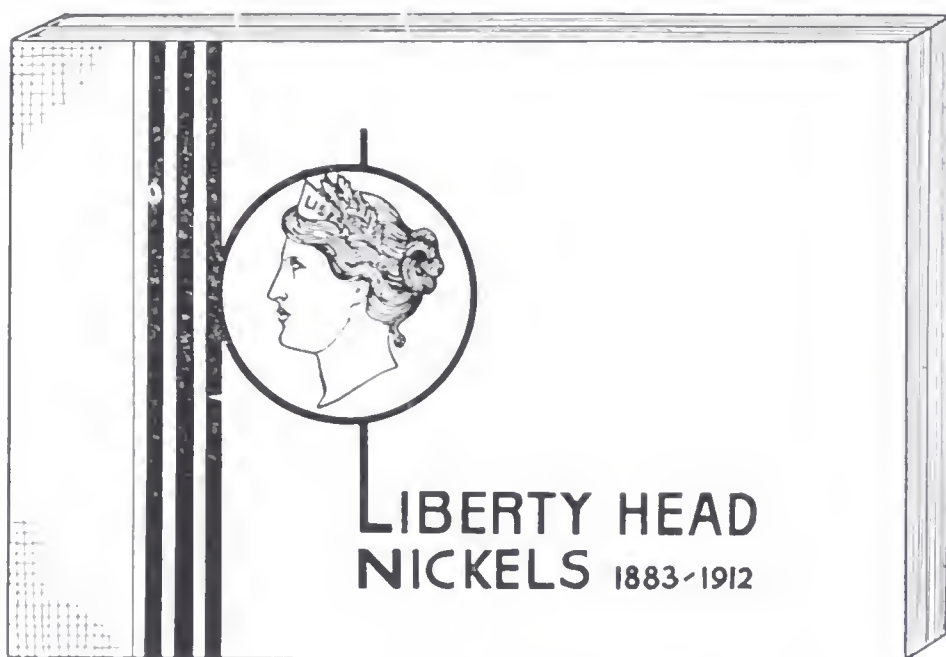
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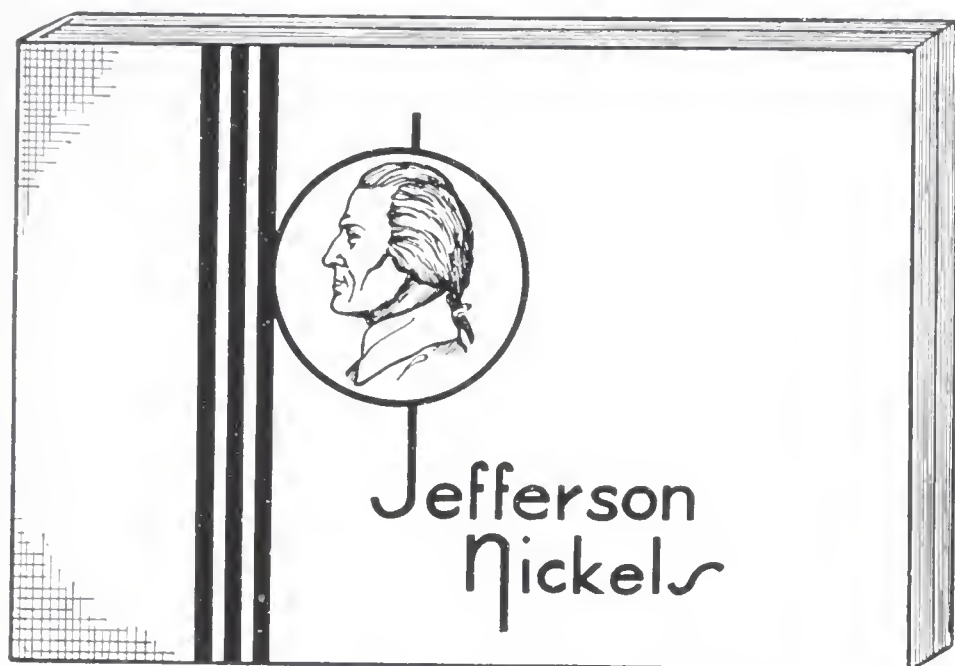
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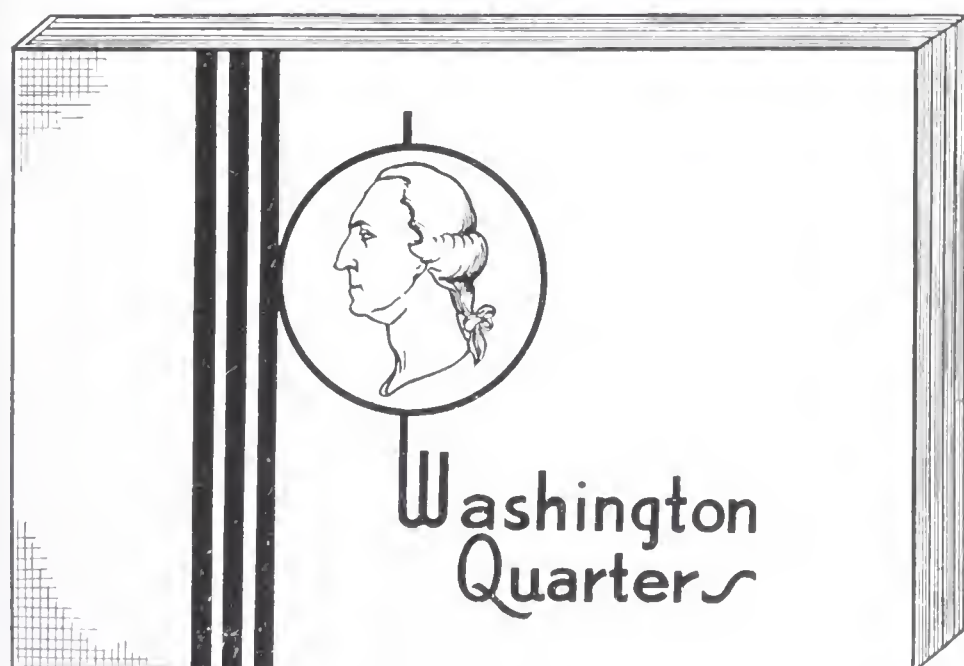
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